

**LINCOLN POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
575 S. 10 Street, Lincoln NE 68508 402-441-6000

FOR RELEASE: August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
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**Lincoln Police Officer Shot During Apprehension of Suspect**

On Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at approximately 11:34 a.m., the Metro Area Fugitive Task Force, the Lincoln Police Department Gang Unit, and Lincoln police investigators were attempting to apprehend 17-year-old Felipe Vazquez in the 3200 block of Vine Street. Investigators were seeking to arrest Vazquez for an outstanding warrant for 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault related to the homicide involving Edward Varejcka that occurred in March of 2020. Investigators had been searching unsuccessfully for Vazquez since the warrant was issued on Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020. Investigators obtained information that Vazquez was at this residence.

As investigators were attempting to contact the individuals inside the residence, a suspect shot a Lincoln police officer. The officer (a 23-year veteran) was transported to a local area hospital, where he underwent surgery and is currently in critical condition. Our thoughts and prayers are with the officer, his family, and friends as he fights for his life. After the suspect fired his weapon, another LPD officer returned fire. No suspects were injured by gunfire in this incident.

Vazquez and another individual identified as Orion J. Ross (19-year-old male) fled the scene but were apprehended by Lincoln police officers a short time later. Prior to the shooting, LPD officers worked with Lincoln Public Schools to initiate school safety procedures. The Nebraska State Patrol and the Lancaster County Sheriff also responded to assist in the apprehension of these fugitives.

Lancaster County Sheriff's Office investigators are interviewing witnesses and conducting follow-up to establish a timeline of the events. Crime scene technicians are currently processing the scene for digital and forensic evidence.

There is no ongoing danger to the public, and this investigation is ongoing.

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